Wigmore Rural District Council.

Leintwardine.

March 5 1901.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31 1900.

I also wish to make a few comments on matters referred to in the Report.

In estimating the population, due allowance has been made for the additional workmen employed on the Birmingham Waterworks who have been lately resident in the district.

You will notice that the Birth-rate is slightly higher than last year, and that the deaths of children under 1 year shew a considerable increase above those of preceding years. This is accounted for by the number of deaths due to prematur births. Out of the 14 deaths under 1 year, 6 are so accounted for.

With reference to Table II appended to this report. I have not divided the district into separate localities, and my reason for so doing is that the various districts or localities comprising the total area, are so obviously alike in every respect, both as regards occupation, atmospherical and sanitary conditions and water supply, that to make separate returns for each district seems to me superfluous. The difference would be so slight for comparison, and hence no valuable infoemation could be obtained from them.

I have deduced my averages for the last four years the district being newly formed in 1896.

The Mortality Returns.

The following table shows certain statistics of mortality during the year 1900, compared with the average for the same district in preceding years, and for England and Wales for 1900.

	1900.	Average of 4 preceding years.	England & Wales 1900.
Deaths per 1,000 of population.	13.7	14.	18·3.
Births per 1000 of population.	27.4	28.5	28·9
Deaths from Zymotic disease per 1,000 of population.	.73	.57	2·0
Deaths of Infants under one year per 1,000 Births	125.	83.	154

The Zymotic death rate is made up of 1 from Measles, 1 from Scarlet fever, 1 from Puerperal Fever, and indicates that the sanitary state of the district is very satisfactory.

With reference to the deaths of those under 1 year of which there were 14, the causes were as follows,

Premature Birth.	6.
Malformed Heart.	1.
Convulsions.	2.
Measles.	1.
Scarlet Fever.	1.
Influenza.	1.
Skin Disease.	1.
Atrophy of Stomach.	1.
	14.

The following Table gives the ages of the persons who died during 1900.

Under one year.	14.
One and under 5 years.	2.
Five and under 15 years.	0.
Fifteen and under 25	1.
Twenty-five and under 65	21.
Sixty-five and upwards.	20.
	58.

	Scarlet Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.
No. of Persons attacked.	3.	1.	1.
No. of deaths.	1.	1.	0.

The Scarlet Fever Cases were imported into the district but by careful isolation and disinfection no fresh cases reulted although one of the cases occurred in a Hut used by the Birmingham Waterworksmen, the Hut containing 14 inmates.

The Puerperal Fever Case was probably due to insanitary surroundings which received immediate attention. I give immediate personal attention in every outbreak and necessary precautions are enjoined by word of mouth and printed plain directions how to prevent spread of infection. Special care also is taken to prevent the risk of dissemination by such general causes as, attendance at school, clothes taken into wash, milk selling, etc., and also the cleansing of all clothing and the disinfection by sulphur fumigation and subsequent lime-washing and repapering of room or rooms which have been occupied by anyone suffering from infectious disease.

School Closure.

During the year the following Schools were closed on account of the presence of infectious disease, and the result in the staying of an epidemic showed the action to have been both judicious and sanitary.

School.	Disease.	Month.
Downton.	Influenza.	January.
Wigmore.	Measles.	June.
Leintwardine.	Measles.	October.
Adforton.	Measles.	November.

An account of the Sanitary Work.

During the course of the year I have at certain periods or as occasions required, inspected your district in order to keep myself informed as to conditions injurious to health existing therein. Wherever I have found any local Sanitary defect I have made careful notes and called the attention of the

sanitary inspector to the same the outcome of which is included in the inspectors report. With reference to special sanitary requirements of your district in the matter of main sewerage and water supply, where such are needed I would refer your Council to previous reports of mine. I may mention that the new Sanitary Inspector has been only appointed since August 1900, which accounts for his returns being smaller than is usually the case.

The following is an account of the Sanitary Work for the year 1900 in the Wigmore Rural District, furnished by the Sanit--ary, Inspector.

Houses Visited.	51.
Nuisances Abated.	10.
Houses in bad repair.	2.
New drains or old ones reconstructed.	4.
New Closets or old ones repaired.	5.
Bad Water.	1.
Accumulation.	1.
Over-crowding.	1.
Animals kept to be a nuisance.	1.

Housing of the Working Classes.

As I have stated in previous reports of mine on the subject of the cottages occupied by the Working Classes, there are many Cottages which present features of construction, conditions or surroundings to which objection might properly be taken in a sanitary point of view, but often these are not of a sufficiently tangible nature to make them of Statutory notice under the Public Health Act. Some of the principal sanitary defects in and around these dwellings to which I wish to direct your attention are damp foundations, damp walls (which can in a great measure be remedied by proper eaves troughing) imperfect ventilation, windows not made to open and roofs dilapidated. During the past year more has been done to alleviate this state of things than in previous years, but there is still room for further improve-

-ment. The closet arrangements in certain districts I have referred to in special reports to your Council and I am glad to say they are receiving attention.

Wigmore Sewerage.

This important matter is receiving the attention of your Council, and I hope before my next Annual Report it will be completed.

Overcrowding.

There is not much gross over-crowding in the district, although the cubic space in the cottages is often undesirably small. I have personally examined all houses where lodgers are taken in, the number of which are greatly increased owing to the workmen on the Birmingham Waterworks, and wherever over-crowding has seemed to exist, I have advised notice to be given by the Sanitary Inspector.

Public Wells.

In previous reports I have called attention to the Public Wells in the district as in several instances standing in need of better protection from surface water and the various sources of contamination to which open wells are liable. In the case of others their value to Cottagers using them would be much increas--ed by some simple steps taken to augment the quantity of water by improved caption and storage.

Water supply to New Houses.

The important matter of carrying out the legal exactments requiring a supply of good water to be provided within a reason--able distance of every New House before it is occupied has been attended to during the year.

Anthrax.

A case of Anthrax, affecting a cow was reported to me during the year but no spread of the disease to the human subject has occurred.

Plague.

In one of my special reports I drew attention to the necessity of immediately remedying any sanitary defects that might exist in the district, and although it might seem premature and unecessary to take such extra precautions as enjoined in an inland Rural District, I pointed out that owing to the proximity of the Birmingham Waterworks and the employment of men from almost every part of England and these lodging in your villages, such a contingency might not be impossible.

I append the four Tabular Statements of sickness and mortality during the year 1900.

I have the honour to be,

Gentleman,

Yours obedient servant.

John. Cartwright

Insp. Off. of Health

WIGMORE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Clerk—HENRY T. WEYMAN, LUDLOW.

~~LUDLOW~~,

Leintwardine ~~189~~

March: 5: 1901

Dear Sir

I beg to enclose my Annual Report for the Wigmore Rural District for year ending Dec 31 1900.

Yours

Yrs truly

J. Hartwright

Med Offr Health